

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1-6. The sheets, which includes Figs. 1-6, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-6. The changes only formalize the drawings.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-19, and 21-35 are pending herein. By the Office Action, claims 2-5, 9, 20-21, 23, and 33 are objected to; claim 5 is rejected under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c); claims 7-8, 11-15, 24-25, and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112; claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 19, 22, 25, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102; and claims 17-18 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. By this Amendment, claim 2, 5, and 20 are canceled, and claims 1, 11, 12, 14, 19, 28, 29, and 31 are amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2-5, 9, 20-21, 23, and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but are otherwise allowable, and for the indication that claims 7, 12-16, 24, 26, and 29-32 would be allowable if the rejection under §112 is overcome.

I. Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c)

Claim 5 is rejected under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) as being a substantial duplicate of claim 3. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution claim 5 is canceled herein to overcome the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under §112

Claims 7-8, 11-15, 24-25, and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Each point of the rejection is addressed below.

1) Claims 7, 8, 24, and 25 are rejected as allegedly being contradictory to their parent claim. Applicants disagree. For example, claim 1 recites that the system for generating modified image data, comprises an input image modifying circuit or routine that over-enhances at least one image feature of input image data to generate intermediate image data;

and an intermediate image modifying circuit or routine that alters at least one over-enhanced image feature and at least one other image feature of the intermediate image data to generate the modified image data. Claim 7 (which depends from claim 6 and which depends from claim 1) recites that the contrast values altering circuit or routine alters the contrast values of the input image data to values below a commonly desired value. This is not inconsistent or contradictory with claim 1, at least because claim 7 does not specify that the contrast values being altered are the same as the at least one image feature that is being over-enhanced in claim 1. Rather, claim 7 merely requires that the specific image feature of contrast is altered to below a commonly desired value, while claim 1 requires that at least one image feature is over-enhanced. Accordingly, claims 7, 8, 24, and 25 are not inconsistent with the parent claim.

2) Claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 28, 29, and 31 are rejected as lacking proper antecedent basis, because the claims recite a feature that is only optional in the parent claim. By this Amendment, claims 11, 12, 14, 28, 29, and 31 are amended.

Accordingly, the claims are not indefinite. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under §102

Claims 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 19, 22, 25, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Eschbach. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution independent claims 1 and 19 are amended to incorporate the limitations of non-rejected claims 2 and 20, respectively. Accordingly, the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 17-18 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eschbach in view of Applicants description of related art. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with

the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution independent claims 1 and 19 are amended to incorporate the limitations of non-rejected claims 2 and 20, respectively.

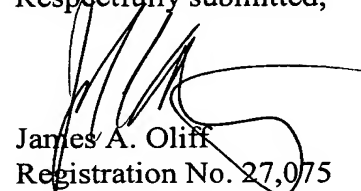
Accordingly, the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Joel S. Armstrong
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JAO:JSA

Attachment:
Drawings Sheets 1-5

Date: April 13, 2006

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